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EASTMONT
TRAINING CENTER
Information Booklet



GLENDIVE, MONTANA

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FOREWARD

Eastmont Training Center is located in Glendive, Montana, near Makoshika State Park. The community has a population of approximately 10,000 persons and is 28 miles from the North Dakota border.

The Center is the only 5-day week institution in the state at the present time. The program is a new concept in the treatment of mentally retarded children in Montana and emphasizes the continuation of family and community relationships, while providing constructive training.

Eastmont is a state institution that serves the entire state, but most of the children enrolled are from the 17 eastern counties of Montana, due to the distances involved in transporting the child to and from his home each weekend.

The Center provides a well trained staff to operate a program that will benefit each child. Every effort is made to involve the staff in additional training to insure that they are kept abreast of new trends and are giving the child the best opportunity possible to receive maximum benefit.

Parents of the children play an important role in the Center's program, and a trusting relationship is developed. The staff tries to help guide the parents in the care of their child at home, when needed, and act as foster parents when the children are at the Center. The parents retain the major responsibility for the care of their child and are a valuable asset to the total program.

Many of the children enrolled would not have an opportunity to participate in a constructive training program in their home community because there are not enough children to form a Special Education Class. The Center does not accept children from communities that have Special Education Classes in operation to serve them, unless there are extenuating circumstances.

SECTION I - HISTORY AND CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION

Eastmont Training Center was established in the 1967 Legislature. The Center operates under the direction of the Division of Mental Retardation within the State Department of Institutions and works in close conjunction with Boulder River School and Hospital in Boulder, Montana.

The architects for the Center were Johnson-Graham & Associates of Billings, Montana who worked under the direction of the Montana State Architecture & Engineering Division. The contractor for the construction was Thrift-T-Construction Company of Miles City, Montana.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the construction of two cottages and a multi-purpose building were conducted on December 15, 1968. Due to construction delays at the site, the first students began attendance on September 1, 1969, at the old community hospital in Glendive. On October 23, 1969, operations were moved to the present site, where one cottage and the multi-purpose building were occupied. On January 5, 1970, the other cottage was put into operation, which completed the construction phase.

The construction was financed with 55 percent Federal and 45 percent State funds. The State of Montana paid \$15,840 for land acquisition and fees. The construction and equipment cost an additional \$413,689, of which \$186,160 was state and \$227,529 was Federal participation. The total cost of the project was \$429,529. The local communities have also donated over \$3000 to purchase recreation equipment for the Center.

SECTION II - PURPOSE AND GOALS

The Center is established as a 5-day week residential and day care institution to encourage a continued relationship between the student, his family, and his community. The well-rounded program is designed to provide the child with learning experience in academics, home living, recreation-physical education, speech therapy, and social awareness. Self help and independent living skills are constantly stressed and performed. The atmosphere and living experiences are kept as much like a home as possible.

Once the children have completed the program at the Center and have received some vocational training, we hope that they will be able to remain at home with their family and community as useful, participating members of society.

SECTION III - PHILOSOPHY

This small residential and day care facility for the mentally retarded will provide residential living, when appropriate, on a short term or temporary basis as is indicated in meeting the needs of a particular individual and his family, which will include:

1. Residential living for those who are deprived of training and/or educational opportunities in their own community due to lack of these services.
2. A day care program for those in the community who cannot properly benefit from a public school experience.
3. Short term care for retarded individuals whose parents need special training and guidance in the care of their retarded child. Weekend care must be provided by the parent or guardian.
4. Temporary care for retardates during certain family crises which make parental care impossible. Weekend care must be provided by the parent or guardian.
5. Care during the transition of individuals to and from the community and the Boulder River School and Hospital.

The center operates under the philosophy that our children can be productive members of society and that we are meeting the needs of today more adequately but must constantly strive to meet and achieve the goals of tomorrow.

SECTION IV - ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A. The following criteria will be used on the admission of a child to the Center:

1. The child must be between the ages of 6 and 17 years.
2. The child must be mentally retarded as determined by psychological evaluation. Such psychological evaluation must have been administered within the last two years.
3. The child must be ambulatory and toilet trained.
4. The child must be brought to the Center for an evaluation by the Center staff and be reviewed by the Staffing Committee.
5. The child must have a medical examination before admission to determine that he is free from communicable diseases.

B. When a child has been determined eligible for admittance, the following factors will be used to determine which child will be accepted from the waiting list:

1. Date of Application.
2. Whether the child is receiving some type of training in his home community.
3. Which class in the Center that the child will participate.
4. Needs of the child.

C. The trainable classes at the Center will be divided into the following categories and will only be able to accommodate the number of students listed:

1. Beginning trainable - 10 students.
2. Intermediate trainable - 12 students.
3. Advanced trainable - 12 students.

Total 34 students

D. The center can accommodate a total of 46 students for the Winter Term. This total includes 32 resident and 14 day care children. The Summer Term can accept 32 resident and 20 day care students.

SECTION IV - Continued

1. The Center can accommodate 12 resident educable students. They will receive training at the Center during the evenings and attend classes in the local Glendive School system during the day. Six of these children will be in the work study classes at Dawson County High School and six in Special Education Classes at Washington Elementary School and Prospect Heights School. They return home on weekends to keep the family and community ties intact. During the Summer Term they will be provided training at the Center.
2. The Center can accommodate 20 resident trainable students, who will attend classes at the Center during the week and receive training in the evening with the educable children. They also stay home on weekends.
3. Fourteen trainable day care students can be accommodated. They attend classes at the Center and go home each evening. These students must reside in a proximity to the Center that will allow them to attend.

E. The staff at the Center will try to evaluate each child at least for one day prior to admission.

SECTION V - PHYSICAL PLANT

The Center construction is designed to be as home-like as possible both in appearance and function. The purpose of this construction is to present a pleasant surrounding for the child, while allowing him to function in a manner as much as possible like a home.

The construction consists of the following:

1. Two identical cottages with approximately 6750 sq. feet of floor space each. Each cottage can accommodate 16 children. At present 16 boys stay in one cottage and 16 girls in the other.
2. One Multi-purpose Building with approximately 1800 sq. feet of floor space. This building is used to accommodate the academic classes and the speech therapist office.

The condition of the physical plant and overall Center environment will be developed and maintained in such a manner that the safety and well-being of residents are assured.

Adequate space will be available for resident activities, training and recreation.

SECTION VI - PROGRAM

The program at the Center is designed to provide the child with experience in academics, home living, recreation-physical education, and social awareness.

The Center will operate two terms:

1. The Winter Term will coincide with the school calendar of the Glendive School System.
2. The Summer Term will be of 6 weeks duration and will be primarily recreation oriented.

The number of children in the residential program shall not exceed the institution's rated capacity of 32 students.

The Center will provide services on a 24 hour day, five day week basis.

Children in the residential program are required to be returned to the Center between 2:00 and 12:00 P.M. each Sunday, unless special arrangements are made.

The students should be picked up by parents between 3:00 and 8:00 P.M. on Fridays. Emergency residential care will be provided due to emergency conditions.

A student program will be developed after the students have been in attendance for a few weeks. This program must be followed at the Center, at home on weekends, and during holidays. Each program will be reviewed every 3 months and a progress report prepared.

The parents should plan to have the child remain at the Center for a full school term unless withdrawal is necessary due to unforeseeable circumstances.

The completed application for admission will serve as the referral date and will be considered in enrollment of new students.

Visiting hours will be between 6:00 and 8:00 P.M. daily or at the discretion of the superintendent or designated authority.

A complete folder will be maintained on each child enrolled in the program.

The Center will maintain a program for each resident, utilizing the components of daily living which will provide social and habit training, in accordance with the resident's abilities and needs. The Center will develop and initial.

SECTION VI - Continued

written program including a weekly and monthly schedule for all activities planned, which is to be kept in the resident's folder. This schedule will include all arrangements made with other community agencies for providing services, such as school activities, recreational programs, work assignments, etc., in addition to activities planned within the Center.

Parents or guardians must be responsible for the following costs:

1. Transportation to and from the Center.
2. Personal needs of the child, such as clothing, toiletries, spending money, etc.
3. Medical and dental treatment, examinations, hospitalization, therapy, medicines, etc. (Routine examination for minor ailments is provided by contracted physicians.)

Eastmont children will be encouraged to participate in the Summer Camp that follows the Summer Term which is sponsored by the Southeastern Montana Association for Retarded Children. The staff at the Center will participate in this camp as much as possible.

SECTION VII - CLASS ARRANGEMENT

The children are divided into two groups for class determination --- educable and trainable.

1. The educable students attend classes in the Glendive Public School System. The children are integrated into regular classes such as physical education, home economics and wood working when possible. The children are placed in other regular classes if they can compete.
2. The elementary students attend Special Education Classes at Washington Elementary School and Prospect Heights School and range in age from 7-14 years. They deal primarily with academics and social subjects.
3. The high school students attend Special Education Classes at Dawson County High School and range in age from 14-21 years. They participate in a work study program to assist them in vocational training as well as academic subjects.

The trainable students at Eastmont Training Center are divided into three groups according to their chronological age, mental age and size. The groups are Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced.

The classes offered at the Center are Academics, Home Living, and Recreation-physical education. Each student attends each class once during the day. A full time speech therapist provides daily individual sessions for those students needing speech correction and development.

Since the educable students cannot attend classes in the Glendive Schools during the Summer Term, two additional groups are formed and a work study class is added to the schedule. The students normally swim daily and have periodic field trips.

SECTION VIII - ADMINISTRATION

The Center will develop written agreements concerning the relationships and services to be provided by local agencies, including medical clinics, public health nursing services, local hospitals, the Glendive Junior College, the special education program director in the public schools, facilities and service of the local welfare department and local interested associations and service club organizations. Provisions will be made so that representatives of such services can periodically meet with the Center staff for cooperative planning.

There will be an organized orientation and in-service training program for Center staff, making appropriate use of training personnel and facilities at the Boulder River School and Hospital, and the Department of Institutions. The Department of Institutions will set guidelines and approve training programs for personnel.

Services will be made available at the Center without discrimination on account of race, creed, or color.

The Center will maintain adequate personnel records concerning the qualification of staff, work assignments and schedules, and other pertinent information.

SECTION IX - STAFF

Superintendent

Accounting Clerk II

Clerk Stenographer II

Social Worker

Registered Nurse

Mental Retardation Aides (9 in total: 4 aides assist in each cottage,
1 aide assists in recreation - education)

1 Speech Therapist

1 Recreation Aide

2 Special Education Instructors

1 Plant Supervisor

1 Cook

1 Food Service Worker

1 Psychologist (employed with ESEA Title I Funds)

The staff has 4 professional people on contract. They are: two medical doctors, an optometrist and a dentist. They provide emergency out-patient and other services to resident students. Each child is administered a physical examination after admission.

During the Summer Term additional summer recreation aides are employed.

SECTION X - FISCAL GUIDELINES

The responsible party of all children admitted are required to file a complete financial statement. The financial statement will be issued at the facility and must be returned to the Department of Institutions, Reimbursement Division in Helena within 30 days.

"Responsible Party" is defined as a person responsible for the support and maintenance of a resident.

Based on the verifiable facts contained in the financial statement and the "ability to pay formula", for Montana residents, the Reimbursement Division will establish a tuition fee for the care and maintenance of this child while at the Center. The tuition fee is directly chargeable to the responsible party, the patient, or his estate; and all monies received through this source are directly deposited in the State's General Fund for future appropriation needs of the State of Montana.

Lack of adequate financial resources will not deny the admission nor shall such fact be considered in determining eligibility for admission of a resident child.

Out of state residents must pay full operation cost per child per day in lieu of the "ability to pay formula".

SECTION XI - FUTURE

The Center hopes to expand both in the services provided to the communities and the physical plant. Our present waiting list indicates that there are students who are unable to attend our program because we do not have the physical space to accommodate them.

We would like to build, on an immediate basis, an education multi-purpose building, two more cottages, and a garage-storage building to our Physical Plant. This would provide us adequate physical space to offer services to more students and improve our classroom situation.

It is hoped that someday the Center may become a comprehensive Community Mental Retardation Center to offer a wide range of services. This would allow us to do a complete evaluation, including medical, on any child requiring this service.

MONTANA



